

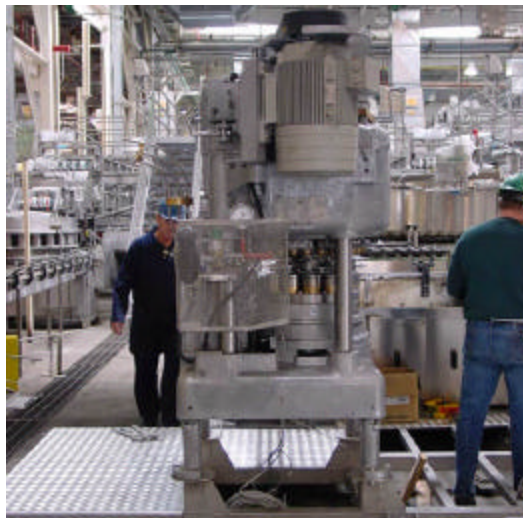


Project Fact Sheet

Pacific Coast Producers Project

GOALS

- Relocate (Lodi) tomato processing facility
- Improve processing quality
- Reduce transportation costs
- Upgrade the efficiency and production of new (Woodland) facility



Tomatoes go from the automatic sorter section to the product fill and close section. There are seven product fill and close production lines in this section. Six of them have been improved from 250 cans/minute to 400 cans/minute. The seventh is a high-speed canning line that has been improved to 1,000 cans per minute. Computer controlled flow of the tomatoes reduces energy use and increases efficiency and throughput.

Project Description

The Pacific Coast Producers (PCP) tomato-processing facility was previously located at 32 East Tokay Street, Lodi, California. PCP moved the facility to 1376 Lemen Avenue, Woodland, California to be closer to where the tomatoes are grown in order to improve processing quality and reduce transportation costs. As part of the move, PCP upgraded the efficiency and production of the Woodland facility including installation of new energy efficient motors, equipment, and controls. They applied for a grant to defer part of the cost of the efficiency upgrades through the CEC-Sponsored Onsite Energy Corporation Agricultural Peak kW Reduction Program. Based on preliminary analysis the grant application was for \$217,000 (i.e., 1,085 kW times \$200/kW).

Background

Pacific Coast Producers has been located in Lodi for 27 years and is a grower-owned cooperative founded in 1971. Today, PCP is the largest grower-owned tomato and fruit canning operation in the United States. Pacific Coast Produces employs over 1,000 people at peak season and is one of the City of Lodi Electric Utility's largest energy users. The PCP tomato processing facility is used during the tomato harvest season that runs from late June through early October. The plant is designed to process approximately 525,000 tons of tomatoes per season or 5,850 tons per day during the harvest season. Tomatoes arrive on trucks carrying approximately 20 tons of tomatoes per truck. The Woodland facility will eventually include 24 production lines. Only 18 production lines are considered in this report in order to compare to the Lodi facility that previously included 18 production lines.

Benefits to California

The project achieves over one megawatt of electricity reduction during on-peak period thus alleviating the total electric load on the state's electricity system during critical on-peak demand periods.

Project Status

- Complete, Final Project Report submitted to Energy Commission.

For More Information

Ricardo Amon California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street, MS-43 Sacramento, CA 95814-5504 (916) 654-4019 ramon@energy.state.ca.us	Elizabeth T. Lowe Vice President Onsite Energy Corporation 2303 Camino Ramon, Suite 280 San Ramon, CA 94583 (925) 358-4272 Fax: 925-358-4261
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